

From: "Blair Taylor" <btaylor@memphistomorrow.org>
To: "Adams, Ben C." <badams@bakerdonelson.com>
"William Gibbons \wgibbons" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>
"Jordan, Bryan" <Bjordan@firsthORIZON.com>
Date: 11/29/2016 9:53:33 PM
Subject: MPD funding next steps

Ben and Bill – I've spoken to both of you tonight about Bryan's message to me re: his conversation with Strickland. And I'm copying Bryan to let him know our next steps as we've discussed.

After talking with Ben, we think crime commission is the better partner for our funds given the trust relationship we have with Bill, not to mention a strategic relationship with crime commission and OSC where these funds support a major OSC initiative, vs having very limited knowledge of the carole west foundation. That said we should certainly stay open to it if there are reasons/strong feelings that Strickland has for us to consider it over crime commission.

Bill is calling Strickland tonight to discuss crime commission being the vehicle. I have my meeting with Strickland tomorrow morning at 10AM to see if I'm freed from the penalty box. And I'm sure this will come up.

In talking with Alex which I did before calling Bill and Ben, the only hangup that may exist for Strickland is that their original thinking is to position this that MT asked Mayor how we could help, versus Mayor reaching out to ask for funds. There was some thought from his team that this positioning may make it simpler for mayor to get this past council.

Ben, Bill and I felt that for crime commission purposes it's better to say that mayor solicited the funds and the funders needed crime commission as 501c3 to write checks to for tax deductibility purposes (vs giving dozens of small grants directly to government which would be difficult to manage for both funders and govt). Positioning it that mayor solicited vs crime commission helps crime commission avoid other partners asking for it to solicit on their behalf! Although crime commission has in the past and will certainly again assist partners in fundraising for key priority initiatives. So this is not a dealbreaker.

In reality both things are true --Mayor solicited us (beyond what we'd ever imagined!), and we opened the door for him to do so by asking him and his team to think outside the box on what can be done to expedite staffing/how we could help. So the narrative holds true either way.

So for now we're moving forward with the plan to go through crime commission. unless, of course, mayor feels strongly about Carole west and crowd.

And Ben, Bill, we should probably take the opportunity to expedite our invitation to Carole to join the crime commission board and perhaps get her help raising some of the funds for Jim's recruitment/retention needs and perhaps other OSC priorities.

Blair Taylor
President
Memphis Tomorrow
22 North Front Street, Suite 670
Memphis, TN 38103
Office: 901.322.8080
btaylor@memphistomorrow.org